

EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE TO THE GRAND JURY.

Judge Barnard on Municipal Corruption—Newspaper Labels—The Conduct of the War and How to End It.

The panel of Grand Jurors in the Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday was called at the opening of the Court, and James G. King, Jr., formerly a Justice of the Supreme Court, but now of the firm of James & Sons, was appointed foreman, and the following gentlemen sworn in as jurors: William L. Andrews, Moses G. Baldwin, David Douglass, Adolphus G. Dunn, John Dunham, Walter M. Franklin, Augustus J. Gillot, Jaques Kelly, Jr., Gibbons Keily, Everett C. Kemer, Alzaham R. Ludlam, Joseph Leggett, Jeremiah Lambert, Cornelius V. B. Ostrander, Robert S. Phineas H. Reed, Samuel H. St. John, Garnett G. Smith, James A. Smith, Michael Thawney, William L. Talmadge, and Samuel B. H. Vane.

The Court then proceeded to charge the Grand Jury as follows:

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRAND JURY: At the opening of the Court of Oyer and Terminer the preceding Justice is required by various statutes to call your attention to the consideration of such offenses as may have been committed against their provisions. I am thus required by law to call your attention to the laws against bribery, the taking illegal fees, interfering with an elector, a violation of the law against profiting emigrants and the like. Your duties, gentlemen, however, extend not only to the investigation of offenses against these particular statutes, but extend over the whole area of criminal jurisprudence. I therefore invite your attention to all infractions of criminal law, and in this connection shall touch upon several of the most important subjects of criminal cognizance. The importunity of promptly visiting offenders against the criminal law with the punishment due them, has been strongly urged. The criminal with the civil laws constitute the feet of the wheel of justice. No infraction of them can occur without endangering the safety of the whole structure. A lenient administration of the laws breeds crime as equanimity breeds disease. The offender against the criminal laws takes heart and proceeds on his course of crime with boldness and confidence of one engaged in a lawful pursuit. The other is law-abiding citizen, finding that the laws afford him no protection, is forced by force, and rights his enemies by force, by force, by degrees, society's forces step by step toward anarchy, until they who have property to lose, from the sheer necessity of the case, combine together and form by the composition a vigilance committee. It is true that in the beginning of the vigilance committees their acts are strictly contrary to law, yet, as they proceed, they, as fast as they can, place themselves under the laws which existed prior to the inception of the cause which led to the formation of the committee. This has been their invincible weapon. The necessity of laws for the preservation of society is apparent from the fact that an unassociated body of men, down to even an association of brigands or pirates, finds it necessary to have rules and regulations, and to enforce obedience to them; and it is observable that the moment the body becomes unable to enforce obedience to its laws, that movement its dissolution commences, and finally takes place. The right of resistance by force to a law, on the ground that it is unjust or unconstitutional, can never be admitted, for if we were to do so, there would be an end to government by law. Each individual could then step up and resist a law by force, and upon the same ground could resist an judgment of any court. This of course does not apply to an act done without color of law, or to an act done under a law by a person not authorized by that law to do it. In such cases there may be resistance. It thus appears that it is the duty of every good citizen to obey the laws; and yet there is one law which a vast number of good citizens uniformly break, and which that number of all kinds of people, in this country, the law requiring the performance of jury duty. This duty is one of the most essential ones that the good citizen has to perform. If he refuses or neglects to perform it, it devolves on the bad citizen; and then commences that loose administration of justice which tends to anarchy and vigilance committees. This the good citizen who neglects his duty has to answer for. Every infringement of the law by the committee, and associated body, is the effective franchise of the city of New-York has become so enormous that it defies my duty as well as the duty of every judge, who presides at a Court of Oyer and Terminer to call the attention of the Grand Jury to the subject, so that not only each individual grand juror may take the matter into serious thought, but that each grand juror may also bespeak the serious attention of his friends and acquaintances to it, and thus disseminate throughout the community such a sense of their duty as electors as to apply the only remedy which exists.

A few days ago a number of the committee, banded together for the purpose of controlling the legislative branch of the City Government by their voices, forming what is now known as the "Ring." It is still in active operation. There is no scheme, no matter how corrupt or wicked, but what will pass through, provided a sufficient pecuniary inducement is brought to bear; and no measure, however meritorious, is sufficient to become a law unless a like influence is used. They seek to control the entire City Government. There are also who band together, not by force, but by persuasion and collection of fraudulent claims against the city, originated in fraud and carried through by perjury. The remedy lies with the people themselves. As long as they abstain from voting, or vote for unworthy men, just so long will the taxes of this city go on rapidly increasing until in a few years it will amount to a confiscation of property. If the community are desirous of preserving their property, they must associate and organize themselves into associations for the purpose of municipal reform. Of the \$15,000,000 which it will be necessary to raise for the taxes for the ensuing year, it is safe to say that one-quarter of it will be either squandered or stolen. For some time past it has been the constant practice of a portion of the individuals connected with the city press to stigmatize all who differ with them in their views as to any acts of national administration, and to endeavor to hold them out as traitors to their country, and so to cover them with a reputation as scoundrels as that of Benedict Arnold. This I charge you, constitutes that party, in some few instances out of a thousand, a charge may be true, and publication of it be for a justifiable purpose; but this does not excuse the parading before the world of a man as a traitor because he dissents from some views entertained by a newspaper, or ventures to doubt the propriety of some measure of the Administration. Government is not one thing; administration is a totally different thing. The people of this country are entitled to be governed by the will of all the people of all the people as signified through the ballot-box. If, therefore, a majority of the people should signify through the ballot-box that the present war should no longer be prosecuted, that majority, although they may have mistaken the true policy, cannot be justly said to be traitors to the Government. It is the essence of republican freedom that every citizen should have the full right to express his views on any political measure or any act of administration, and endeavor by argument and persuasion to bring others to adopt his views. Anything which diminishes this right, whether it be by armed interference or by printed articles, holding one up to public obloquy for entertaining any particular opinion, tends to sap the very foundation of our national existence. It is for these reasons that I view the indiscriminate application of the epithet Secessionist to all who do not yield implicit faith to every act of an Administration, and who do not subscribe to the particular tenets of those who endeavor to make the country which is but the natural conglomeration of a state of things, a separate and distinct nation, to be liable to the speculations of their enemies. We are of all parties, but here we know nothing of politics. (Cheers.) Every speaker seems to be anxious to get into the question. The question is shall this bill be allowed to stand in the Legislature. There were from 10,000 to 15,000 persons present. The following organizations were represented: Dry Goods Clerks Early Cleaning Association, Martel Painters and Rubbers Horse Collar Makers, French Painters, Tailors, Tailors' Union, Tailors' Union, Longshoremen, Carpenters, Bricklayers' Protective and Universal Union, Tailors' Union, Oliver Gilders, United Cooperers, New York Tailors' Union, Tailors' Union, Glass Painters, German Varnishers and Painters, French speaking Varnishers and Painters, Bricklayers' Protective and Universal Union, The Plate and Glass Makers' Union, New York Tailors' Union, Tailors' Union, Dr. Douglass, New York Hair Painters, Gilders' Protective Union, Granite Stone Cutters, Journeyman Plumbers' Union, Tailors' Union, Tailors' Union, Tailors' Union, Tailors' Union, Ship Joiners, Twine Spinners, Mariner Dressers, Blacksmiths of Brooklyn, Sash and Blind Blinds Union, Clothing Cutters, Blank Book Binders, Printers, Paper Hangers, Iron Molders of Spuyten Duyvil, Dyers, Milliners, Tailors' Union, Tailors' Union, Tailors' Union, Laborers' Union, Nos. 2 and 4, Wire Drawers, Blacksmiths' Union, Nos. 1 and 3; Wire Drawers; Cordwainers; Team Shoemakers.

The Shipwrights' Association turned out in great numbers, bearing a banner on which was painted a large star and square emblem of their trade. Several societies of American sailors, without trade emblems, during the meeting a large number of signatures were obtained to the following petition:

To the Honorable N. Y. Legislature.

We, the undersigned citizens of New-York, Workmen and Mechanics, respectfully protest against the passage of the bill, and especially against the elective franchise of the city of New-York, which has become so enormous that it defies my duty as well as the duty of every judge, who presides at a Court of Oyer and Terminer to call the attention of the Grand Jury to the subject, so that not only each individual grand juror may take the matter into serious thought, but that each grand juror may also bespeak the serious attention of his friends and acquaintances to it, and thus disseminate throughout the community such a sense of their duty as electors as to apply the only remedy which exists.

Mr. ROBERT CROWE of the Tailors' Association regretted that the last speaker had occupied any time on a side issue. They would show that the indictment of the workingmen of the City would be upheld by the workingmen against the supporters of this bill. The workingmen had learned that it was the intention to make this bill a copy of the English bill of attainder.

Mr. CROWE referred to acts of Edward III, to prevent the combination of trades for protection. Artisans who absented themselves from their work were to be branded on the forehead with the letter "V." There was an act on the English statute book of the precise character of the Fugitive Slave law of this country. It was applied against the laborer. A servant, laborer or artificer who absented himself could be demanded by the bailiff or master. They would allow Senator Folger to introduce a bill to "stand by and defend the workingmen of the City against this bill." The workingmen had learned that the bill was to be introduced by Mr. W. H. Muller, Captain in the Royal Navy, at command of the British Admiralty, of Galveston, Texas, when the Harriet Lane was captured there.

COURT OF OYER AND TERMINER—APRIL 7.—Before Justice BARNEY.

The People, agt. John H. Nixon, were to have been tried today, but there were not sufficient jurors in attendance to try the cause. The Court adjourned until Tuesday next, when the additional panel ordered on Tuesday last will be returned.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS—APRIL 7.—Before Justice PROGRAM.

Frank S. Band, &c., agt. Schuyler G. Chedsey, Seated.

CIRCUIT—APRIL 7.—Before Justice MASON.

ACTION FOR A PLATING-MACHINE.

William S. Sleath and Christian Schwarts, agt. Pierrepont, V. Van.

This action has been on trial for several days.

The plaintiff and the defendant for manufacturing in 1851 what was called "Kittie's Patent Plating Machine." The defendant set up that he never ordered it, and had no connection with it. The testimony was very conflicting. The Jury rendered a verdict for the plaintiffs for \$1,441, and the Court ordered an allowance of \$200. A stay of proceedings was granted to enable defendant to appeal.

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